

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

~~[[(+)]~~ querying a user to identify, via configuration software of a computer system, activities that make up a business process;

~~[[(+)]~~ for each identified business process activity ~~identified in step (+)~~, querying the user to provide process control elements that define a behavior of the ~~respective activity of the business process~~ activity with respect to a business object to be acted on by the activity, said process control elements ~~including~~ comprising:

a status element, which represents a progress level within the business process that the business object has reached by arriving at the ~~instant~~ activity;

a user interface element, which defines the scope within which users are allowed to operate on the business object for the ~~instant~~ activity;

a plausibility check element, which verifies that the business object sufficiently meets a set of criteria to proceed past the ~~instant~~ activity;

a release element, which signals that the business object is ready to proceed past the ~~instant~~ activity in the business process; and

an authorization element, which specifies a set of users that is allowed to operate on the business object for the ~~instant~~ activity;

~~[[(+)]~~ storing the defined business process and activity behaviors in configuration data of the computer system; and

~~[[(+)]~~ dynamically generating the business process from the activities and the process control elements provided by the user, to operate on business objects managed by the computer system.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising performing ~~one or more activities of the~~ a business process activity in accordance with a ~~corresponding~~ its defined behavior.

3. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor and storing instructions adapted to be executed by the processor, the instructions implementing a method ~~including~~ comprising:

querying a user to identify, via configuration software of the computer system, activities that make up a business process;

for each identified business process activity, querying the user to provide process control elements that define a behavior of the ~~respective activity of the business process activity~~ with respect to a business object to be acted on by the activity, said process control elements ~~including~~ comprising:

a status element, which represents a progress level within the business process that the business object has reached by arriving at the ~~instant~~ activity;

a user interface element, which defines the scope within which users are allowed to operate on the business object for the ~~instant~~ activity;

a plausibility check element, which verifies that the business object sufficiently meets a set of criteria to proceed past the ~~instant~~ activity;

a release element, which signals that the business object is ready to proceed past the ~~instant~~ activity in the business process; and

an authorization element, which specifies a set of users that is allowed to operate on the business object for the ~~instant~~ activity;

storing the defined business process and activity behaviors in configuration data of the computer system; and

dynamically generating the business process from the activities and the process control elements provided by the user, to operate on business objects managed by the computer system.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 3, the method further comprising performing ~~one or more activities of the~~ a business process activity in accordance with its defined behavior stored in the configuration data.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 3, the method further comprising associating ~~respective~~ configuration data values with retrieval parameters.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 5, the method further comprising reading the configuration data values based on the retrieval parameters, and controlling a business process activity behavior ~~of one or more activities of the business process~~ based on the read configuration data values.

7. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage medium storing computer-executable instructions adapted to be executed by a processor to perform a method ~~including~~ comprising:

querying a user to identify, via configuration software of a computer system, activities that make up a business process;

for each identified business process activity, querying the user to provide process control elements that define a behavior of the respective business process activity ~~of the business process~~ with respect to a business object to be acted on by the activity, said process control elements including comprising:

a status element, which represents a progress level within the business process that the business object has reached by arriving at the ~~instant~~ activity;

a user interface element, which defines the scope within which users are allowed to operate on the business object for the ~~instant~~ activity;

a plausibility check element, which verifies that the business object sufficiently meets a set of criteria to proceed past the ~~instant~~ activity;

a release element, which signals that the business object is ready to proceed past the ~~instant~~ activity in the business process; and

an authorization element, which specifies a set of users that is allowed to operate on the business object for the ~~instant~~ activity;

storing the defined business process and activity behaviors in configuration data of the computer system; and

dynamically generating the business process from the activities and the process control elements provided by the user, to operate on business objects managed by the computer system.

8. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 7, the method further comprising associating ~~respective~~ configuration data values with retrieval parameters.

9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

reading configuration data to determine a behavior of a user-identified activity of a business process with respect to a business object to be acted on by the activity, wherein user-provided process control elements define the behavior stored in the configuration data, said process control elements including comprising:

a status element, which represents a progress level within the business process that the business object has reached by arriving at the ~~instant~~ activity;

a user interface element, which defines the scope within which users are allowed to operate on the business object for the ~~instant~~ activity;

a plausibility check element, which verifies that the business object sufficiently meets a set of criteria to proceed past the ~~instant~~ activity;

a release element, which signals that the business object is ready to proceed past the ~~instant~~ activity in the business process; and

an authorization element, which specifies a set of users that is allowed to operate on the business object for the ~~instant~~ activity; and

performing the business process activity in accordance with ~~the configuration data~~ the behavior stored in the configuration data.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein ~~values in the configuration data~~ values wherein the behavior of the activity is defined are read based on ~~[[a]] retrieval parameter parameters~~ associated with a process control area of the activity the configuration data values.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the status element relates to a stage of the business process.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the user interface element relates to at least one of an appearance and operability of a user interface for handling the business object.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the plausibility check element relates to plausibility checks on data relating to the business object.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the release element relates to an approval for the business object to be acted on by a subsequent activity.

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15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the authorization element relates to an authorization to act on the business object.